

REMARKS

In the Notice dated Oct. 17, 2006 the Examiner asked for a more specific identification of limitation believed allowable over the prior art of record. A more detailed response follows.

Independent claims 16, 21, and 26 now more precisely recite a virtual private network including a set of two private networks, each having a firewall, and a connection between the two networks over a public network. The claims now recite that the connection between the two networks is encrypted. Moreover, the independent claims now recite that the virtual private network also has DNS functionality associated with the firewalls to facilitate connections between clients of the private networks.

Thus, the newly presented claims more particularly recite a pair of firewall devices that cooperate to form an encrypted virtual private connection and utilize DNS to facilitate a connection between the networks. It is respectfully submitted that Vu does not teach or suggest the user of a system of firewall devices to form a virtual private network.

The dependent claims now more precisely recite a firewall that may be multi-homed, i.e., a firewall that includes multiple homes through which connections may be made. The Specification in the table discloses:

Multi-homing: Multiple virtual hosts running on a single physical machine, using multiple network addresses on a single network interface. A virtual host assumes the identity of one of multiple, independently-configurable "homes" to handle a particular connection at a particular time.

It is respectfully believed that the prior art of record neither teaches or suggests a firewall device that can manage connections being made through multiple homes within

the same device. It is respectfully submitted that at the time of the filing of the parent case in 1996, this ability to safeguard multiple network addresses on a single network interface represents a significant advance over the state of the art at that time. It is believed that the claims as now pending are allowable over the prior art for this reason alone.

Also, the dependent claims now recite that the firewall may be configured over the public network through the point-and-click interface of a web browser. The claims now recite that the web configurator is capable of configuring the configuration files of the virtual hosts through an HTML-based point-and-click interface, such as any standard web browser. Thus, the firewall as presently claimed provides for a point-and-click interface that allows a user to remotely configure the settings of a specific home selected from all of the homes of the firewall.

The ability to perform this type of configuration using a web browser represents a significant advantage over the prior art as of 1996, especially in terms of ease-of-use and cross-platform compatibility. As the cited art of record does not provide for configuration in this manner, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable over the art of record.

It is respectfully submitted that Vu does not teach or suggest a virtual private network as now claimed. It is respectfully requested that the pending case be reconsidered in light of these Remarks and Amendments and moved to allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application or this response, the Examiner is personally invited to telephone the undersigned at 775-848-5624.

Respectfully submitted,
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